December 16, 1993

Millbury, Mass.

The Millbury · Sutton

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CHRONICLE

Volume 8 No. 37

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CHRONICLE

Town Hall Septic System Acting Up

Sutton officials to consider meeting with Millbury officials on mutual areas of concern

By Alec G. Belisle

SUTTON - The Selectmen met December 7 for their last meeting before the Christmas holidays. All members were present to address a short agenda except Selectman Rick LaBonte.

Town Administrator John Olson gave the board an optimistic report of the Dodge Road water main installation. According to Olson, laterals to six homes have been hooked up and construction is going on with only a few minor problems. He said the contractor did encounter some ledge which has slowed construction slightly, but the date for completion of the project remains approximately December 15. He added that a few homes may be hooked up to water by December 10.

Olson told the board that he has expressed concern that the contractor is not putting one foot of gravel on top of the water pipe. He said the contractor told him that was not part of his contract.

Selectman Wally Johnson said he had earlier expressed his concern that proper aggregate be used in backfilling and that proper compaction be done over the pipe. He said he has expressed this concern to the water commissioners who assure him that they will take the responsibility for the installation and will be correct any deficiencies in the Spring.

Connor stated that she would like to have a written statement from the Wilkinsonville Water Commissioners that they will take full responsibility for any corrections or problems that result from faulty installation.

Town Hall Septic System

Olson told the board that the Town Hall septic system is filling up rapidly, and the Board of Health has talked of curtailing the Senior Lunch Program. He said the septic tank was pumped on December 3 after rising to a high level in a filler pipe. He said he checked the filler pipe on December 7 and water was partially up the pipe again. Olson said that some discharge is leaking through the parking lot.

Olson said all food preparation and clean-up for the senior lunch program takes place outside of the town hall and so the only strain on the system would come from use of the sanitary facilities. He also said the fact that the system filled up over the weekend when the building was not being used indicates that the Senior Program is not causing the back-up.

Johnson said the drain pipe may be blocked and suggested running a snake down the pipe to alleviate the problem.

Olson said he talked to former Town Administrator Dexter Blois who told him that he experienced a similar problem last winter. Olson said that the condition appears to be an ongoing problem. He also said that he did not believe that Sutton could curtail the Senior Lunch Program.

The board agreed.

Sutton Valley Corp

Olson said that town counsel has informed him that Sutton has used only $3,454 of the cash surety of the $10,000 cash bond the Town held to complete the roads which were excavated by the failed Sutton Valley Corp. project. He said that it is unlikely that the town can recover the cost of the police detail that was needed during several occasions when corrective work was done by the town to make the roads passable, as that is considered under "unsecured creditors" and the town can only hope to recover, at best, pennies on the dollar. Olson said he has uncovered additional expenses from the Highway Department, but it looked like the town would have to return $2,000 of the bond.

Connor, expressing a little irritation, commented that her reading of town counsel's letter suggested that "It doesn't seem like anybody's standing up for the town." She said the work the Town has had to do on that

Turn to SUTTON on Page 12

Candidate Selection on hold pending background checks

By Edward J. Cooney

MILLBURY - The Selectmen met December 7 to interview two finalists to fill the position of Administrative Assistant: Patricia Whalen and David DeManche. Prior to conducting the second round of interviews, they discussed what strategy they would use in salary negotiations.

Earl Chase, who is filling in part time as Administrative Assistant, said he spoke with town counsel who advised him that the Board can move to executive session to discuss strategy for negotiations with non union personnel as stipulated under Mass General

Turn to SELECTMEN on Page 7

Sports related topics highlight school committee meeting

By Edward J. Cooney

MILLBURY - The School Committee met December 8 for its last meeting of 1993. The next meeting will be held January 12, 1994.

The Committee met with Band Director Michael Nagy at the request of Committee member Barbara Tuttle who asked for an update on the band's commitments for this school year. Tuttle said she received a number of calls from parents who said the band was not going to perform at the Thanksgiving Day Football game in Northbridge.

Tuttle noted that a list provided by Nagy indicates that the band was to perform on Thanksgiving Day, to which Nagy replied that the list of dates of performances was printed up after the Thanksgiving Day game. Nagy also said that the band did play at the super bowl although they do not usually play at away games.

Nagy said transportation has been a problem on occasion, and he said he discussed this with former High School Principal Daniel Carmody and former Athletic Director Dave Wilbur.

In answer to a question as to what schools in other towns do, Nagy said they only perform at home games.

School Committee Chairman Chet Hanratty said the matter of providing bus transportation could be addressed in some way in the next budget.

Nagy took note of the fact that the band performed over the past four weeks at several rallies at the school and he said he was proud of their efforts. "They have asked to do more, and hopefully as we reach goals for the band new things can be added," he said.

High School Principal Stephen Mills said he would be coming before the Committee to ask them to consider giving band members some form of academic credit, much along the lines of what is offered in Shrewsbury.

Sports Policy

A discussion ensued between Committee members, Athletic Director Elaine Bush and Principal Mills over a policy issue relating to a student who didn't participate in the chemical awareness program required of all candidates for sports teams.

Bush noted that the student also did not participate in the make up program. She said she turned down a request from the mother of the student to participate in sports because the policy hadn't been complied with by her son. "I told her that I have to follow the policy much like an umpire has to follow and enforce the rules," said Bush. She said every

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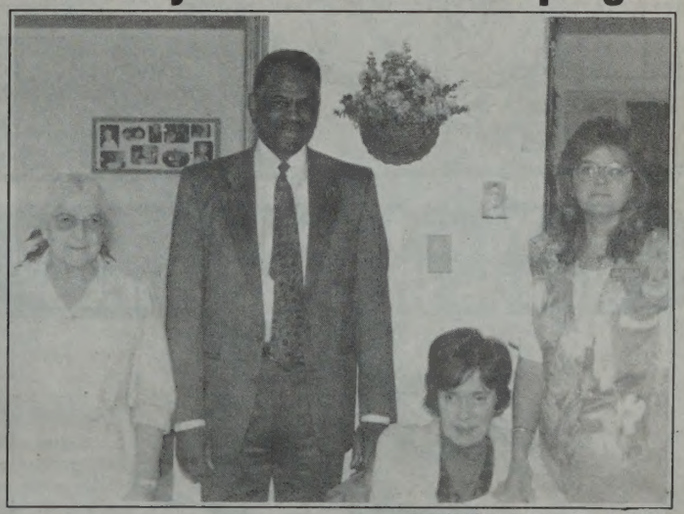
Secretary visits innovative program



CHRONICLE photo by Alec G. Belisle

(l-r) Flora Bohanan, Secretary Ollivierre, Mary MacDuffie and Lisa Bennes, Congregate Housing Coordinator. Bohanan and MacDuffie are residents at the Congregate Housing Program.

MILLBURY - The Secretary of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Franklin Ollivierre, visited with residents of the Millbury Congregate Housing Program and toured the Adult Day Health Center on December 9. While at the Center, Ollivierre recognized three senior volunteers, Harriet Sweet, Jean Peterson and Rose Mary McGuigan who volunteer both at the Congregate Housing and the Center.

The Congregate Housing Program, managed by the Millbury Housing Authority and sponsored by the District Nursing Society, is an example of successful integration of elders and younger disabled adults. The program has five apartments with various amounts of bedrooms in each unit. The residents share the kitchen and living rooms. One of the apartments has six younger disabled residents living in it and the other four apartments primarily house elderly residents.

The residents get together often to share community dinners, birthday parties and day-

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THE MILLBURY-SUTTON CHRONICLE
117 Elm Street, Millbury, MA 01527
TEL: 865-1645
Alexander G. Belisle, Publisher
Andree A. Belisle, Editor

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The DEADLINE for all submissions is noon on the Saturday of the week prior to publication.

Obituaries

Thomas F. O'Brien

MILLBURY - Thomas F. O'Brien, 69, formerly of 7 Braney Road, died December 4th in the Lincoln Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Worcester, after an illness.

He leaves two brothers, Maurice J. O'Brien of Millbury and John F. O'Brien of Worcester; a sister, Ann T. Hester of Holden; nephews and nieces. He was born in Millbury, son of Maurice W. and Helen E. (Connor) O'Brien and lived here 25 years, moving to Poughkeepsie, New York where he lived for 40 years, returning here three years ago. He graduated from Millbury High School in 1942.

Mr. O'Brien was a plasterer for the Hudson Valley Allied Union of Bricklayers and Craftsmen in Poughkeepsie for 40 years, retiring in 1990. He was a WW II Army veteran and served in the European Theater.

He was a member of the Hudson Valley Allied Union of Bricklayers and Craftsmen in New York.

The funeral was held December 7th from Mulhane Home for Funerals, 45 Main Street, Millbury, with a Mass in St. Brigid's Church, 59 Main Street. Burial was in St. Brigid's Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Vincent DePaul Society of St. Brigid's Church, 59 Main St., Millbury, 01527

Marion R. Perry

SUTTON - Marion R. (Clouthier) Perry, 86, of 449 Central Turnpike, formerly of Millbury, died December 9th in her home after a long illness.

Her husband, Ernest L. Perry, died in 1962. She leaves a son, Dr. Robert J. Perry, and a daughter, Joyce A. Maranda - with who she lived - both of Sutton; four grandchildren; and a niece. She was born in Worcester, a daughter of the late Joseph L. and Jennie A. (Monnette) Clouthier, and lived 43 years in Millbury before moving here 23 years ago.

Mrs. Perry was a member of St. Mark's Parish and a former member of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Millbury.

Funeral services and burial in Central Cemetery, Millbury, were private. Turgeon Funeral Home, 64 Main Street, Millbury, directed arrangements.

George H. Robbins

MILLBURY - George H. Robbins, 50, of 306 NW 107th Avenue, Coral Springs, Florida, formerly of Millbury and Auburn, took his own life in his home December 5th.

He leaves his wife, Amy (Schnall) Robbins; a son, Dana S. Robbins and three daughters, April R. Coletti, Lesa B. Robbins-Kuznamovski, and Heidi K. Robbins, all of Millbury; their mother, Beverly A. (McCullough) Robbins of Leominster; his father, Howard F. Robbins of North Grafton; two brothers, Charles O. Robbins of Auburn and Jeffrey A. Robbins of Holden; a sister, Sandra A. Porter of Waltham; four grandchildren; uncles and aunts; nephews and nieces. He was born in Worcester, a son of the late Dorothy M. (McCullough) Robbins, and had lived in Auburn for many years and 25 years here before moving to Florida two years ago.

He was a graduate of Auburn High School.

Mr. Robbins was a plastics broker and the co-owner of Robbins Polymer in Coral Springs for the past two years. Previously, he was vice-president for marketing for Reed Plastics in Holden, where he worked for over 20 years.

A memorial service was held December 10th in the First Presbyterian Church, Worcester. After cremation, final disposition of the ashes will be at the convenience of the family. Turgeon Funeral Home, 64 Main Street, handled the arrangements.

Bandstand pins ready for pick up

MILLBURY - The Bandstand pins are now in. Members of the Friends of the Millbury Bandstand will be at the Millbury Public Library on Saturday, December 18, from 10 a.m. to noon so you can pick up the pins you ordered; remember to bring your yellow receipt. The Friends would like to thank everyone who supported this fund raiser. If you were unable to order any of the pins, the Friends will be taking orders again next month. The exact date and time will be announced in the paper.

Santa on the Common

MILLBURY - The Millbury Parks Department will sponsor "Santa on the Common" on Saturday, December 18, from 10-2. The rain date will be Sunday, December 19, 12-2.

Correction

Corrections are in order for errors in last week's report on the Woolies Super Bowl Win. The Editor readily admits to little or no knowledge of sports-related abbreviations and apologizes for assuming that a PAT (Point After Touchdown) is the same as a Field Goal. The Editor also takes responsibility for interpreting "Poss" (Possession) as "Pass".

Hey! You win some, you lose some, unless, of course, you're the Millbury Woolies, and then you lose none at all!

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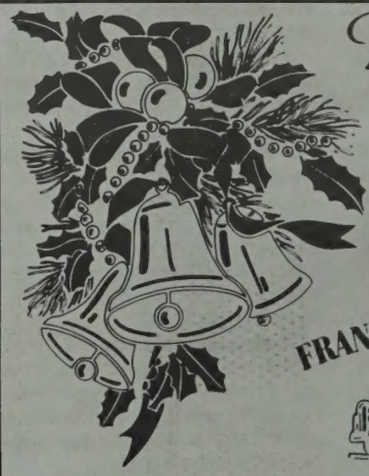

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Peace and joy to you and your loved ones.

CONGREGATE from Page 1

to-day socialization. Almost all of the residents (young and old) receive support services to maintain their independence and also benefit from the assistance of the Housing Coordinator, Lisa Bennes, who is on site 30 hours per week.

The Adult Day Health Care Center, also sponsored by the District Nursing Society, is a day-long program offering a variety of health and social services in a protective group setting. Participants must be over the age of 18 and have health and/or social needs.

Bennes and Janet Clawson (Director of Adult Day Health) were recently invited to give a presentation in Kentucky to their Housing Corporation on these two innovative programs.

Bennes also represented the Congregate Housing Program at the National Shared Housing Conference in San Francisco in November. Of particular interest to the conference was the story of Mary E. MacDuffie who now lives in Congregate and attends Adult Day Health; she was in a nursing home for over 40 years before trying this newfound independence.

The Millbury Congregate Program has taken seven people out of nursing homes to live in shared housing and has diverted five additional residents from going into a nursing home. Bennes feels that having the Center next door has enabled her to offer additional in-depth services such as personal care, skilled nursing, physical therapy, and socialization to these residents.

DEADLINE

The DEADLINE for all submissions to the Millbury-Sutton Chronicle is Saturday noon of the week prior to publication. The office is closed to the public on Saturdays but announcements, subscription renewals and classifieds may be left in the mailbox at the side entrance.

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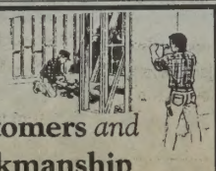
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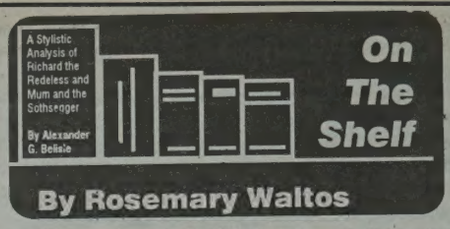

By Rosemary Waltos

Children's Books: Gift giving ideas from the Children's room at the Millbury Public Library

YOUNGER

SOFIE'S ROLE by Amy Heath. On the day before Christmas, Sofie makes her big debut serving customers in her family's busy bakery. ($14.95)

LETTING SWIFT RIVER GO by Jane Yolen. Gentle illustrations and nostalgic text describe changing times in rural America as the narrator recalls the forming of Quabbin Reservoir. ($15.95)

OWL WHO BECAME THE MOON by Jonathan London. Beautiful illustrations help to tell the story of a young boy's travels while riding on a train at night, listening and watching as he passes creatures in their wilderness homes. ($13.99)

THREE LITTLE WOLVES & THE BIG BAD PIG by Eugene Trivizas. A retelling of the familiar story, but with a twist that leads to a surprise ending. ($15.95)

MIDDLE

SANTA CALLS by William Joyce. Art Aimesworth receives a mysterious summons from Santa Clause and shares a Christmas adventure with his sister that brings them closer together. ($18)

THE STINKY CHEESE MAN by Jon Scieszka. Madcap revisions of fairy tales with wonderfully wacky illustrations and designs.

GORILLAS by Paul Hermann Burgel and Manfred Hartwig (not a textbook). Full-color photos and animated text take readers through the rainforests in which mountain gorilla families live showing their habitat and daily lives. ($14.95)

OLDER

BEAUTY by Robin McKinley. Values of love, honor and beauty are placed in a magical setting in this retelling of the story of Beauty and the Beast. ($4.95)

JIM UGLY by Sid Fleischmann. Jake and his half-wolf dog, Jim Ugly, attempt to solve the mystery of his missing father in this fast-paced spoof of a western melodrama. ($3.50)

TWILIGHT STRUGGLE by Barbara Harrison and Daniel Terris. A well-documented biography of John F. Kennedy presents the strengths and weaknesses of the public and private person. ($18)

ALL AGES

GONNA SING MY HEAD OFF edited by Kathleen Krull. A collection of American folksongs for children accompanied by joyous illustrations and informative musical and historical notes. Includes simple guitar and piano arrangements. ($20)

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA compiled by Amy Cohn. Folklore and folksongs illustrated by Caldecott medal and honor book artists. Tells the history of America reflecting its multicultural society. ($29.95)

Call the library for more book and books-on-cassette recommendations for children.

****

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Millbury Special Town Election

MILLBURY - A special town election will be held Tuesday, December 28, 1993. The last day to register to vote in this election is Wednesday, December 8, 1993. Registration will be taken Saturday, December 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Town Clerk's office and Wednesday, December 8, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., also in the Town Clerk's office.

In addition, you can register any weekday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office until the close of registration on December 8, 1993.

Spirit of Christmas alive at Shaw School

MILLBURY - Elizabeth Mitchell and Valerie Spencer, sixth graders at the Shaw School, decided that "Kids can contribute too!" They initiated a canned goods drive for families in need and invited Goretti's Supermarket to join in their drive. Photo above shows Art Martin of Goretti's making a contribution to Elizabeth (center) and Val. The bounty was great enough to pass along to the Friendly House and the Vietnam Veterans Shelter.

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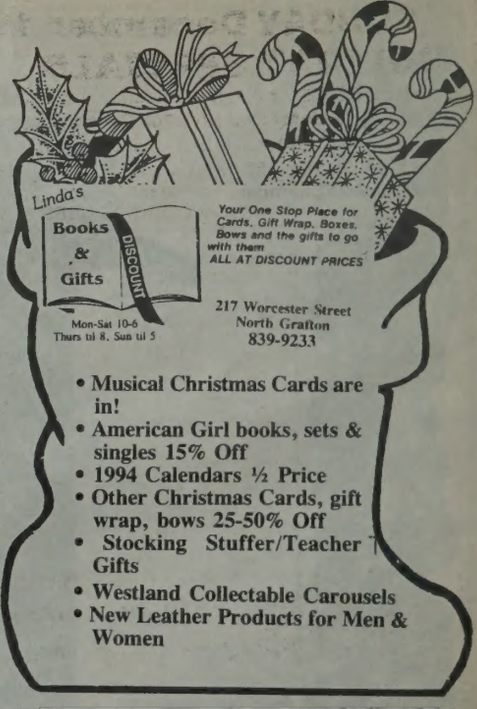
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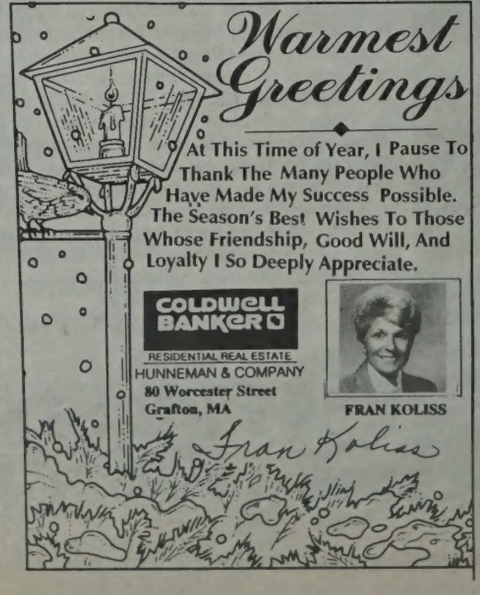
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SCHOOL from Page 1

effort was made through home room announcements and bulletin board attachments in home rooms as well as through the media to inform students and parents of the policy and requirements for attendance at either the original program or the make-up program. At the makeup session on November 18th, 27 students and five parents were present for the makeup program.

Committee member Jane Pojani asked if any exceptions to the policy were made.

Bush said one was made for a student who moved into town only three weeks ago.

Mills then explained that he had received a call from the mother who was concerned about her son who had not participated in any of the chemical awareness programs. The mother asked for consideration for her son because he was "immature and irresponsible in some ways and doesn't follow up on things." He said the mother also indicated that she was not aware of the program requirements.

Mills said that in talking with Assistant Principal Charles Capparelli, it was decided that this particular student could potentially be helped by being involved with sports. "I told the mother of the policy," said Mills. "I didn't exempt the student but asked the student and mother to review the tape and program at home and complete what the others had done. Subsequently, they did do that."

Committeeman Alan Marble asked if other students were given an opportunity to do the same.

Mills said he wasn't aware of any others.

"Are we the policy making board?" asked Tuttle. "Do we agree that they (administration) should inform us (of policy changes)?"

"There are no exemptions from the policy unless we give them that leeway," said Hanratty.

"If there is to be one exemption," asked Pojani, "then what about those who attended the meetings in October and the kids who attended the makeup in November? It's not fair to those students who were already told that they could not participate in tryouts. We set policy. As a school board we have done all we could to get the message out. I don't see how you can allow an exemption. We should stick to our policy."

Marble said he wasn't happy with the way the issue was handled. "No way can we tell him (the student) he is off the team, especially when decisions were made by the adults. I don't agree with that part, but no way can I go along with telling him (the student) he is off (the team))."

Pojani said she disagreed with Marble because the situation creates a problem in dealing with other sports teams and cheerleaders.

Superintendent Richard Palermo said the policy is a good one. "It's one of the tightest policies in this area. We certainly have a high standard," he said. "There may be times when there are exceptions, and building principals and assistants know the kids in their building. It is difficult to bend, but if in the long run it will help a kid stay in school, then I would support their judgement."

Mills said he didn't feel he had made an exemption to the policy and, as a school committee member in Worcester, said he is supportive of policies made by the committee. "I'll take responsibility for my decision," he said. "I wasn't aware that others were also involved as I received an appeal from the mother who had indicated she hadn't had adequate information."

Tuttle said that by the time students reach the 7th and 8th grade they should be taking some responsibility.

Hanratty said he would offer a motion to allow the five students who were not allowed to try out the chance to compete and, if necessary, to expand the teams for this one time only. The five students will have to meet the requirements for the chemical awareness program participation. The motion also included two cheerleaders. "We have new administrators who will get to know the policies, and hopefully this will not happen again," said Hanratty.

The Committee voted 3-1-1 on Hanratty's motion with Committeeman Tom Clawson, Hanratty and Marble voting yea and Tuttle voting nay. Pojani abstained.

The Committee voted to include a golf team as one of its spring sports. Tuttle asked for a sentence in the proposal that would require that candidates have some experience in the sport and some equipment.

Bush agreed to the suggestion. She also reported that the operators of Clearview Country Club would welcome the students' use of the course and would also offer them paid work at the course.

The salary for the coach would come out of the regular school budget. The other costs, amounting to between $800 and $900, according to Bush, could come from the football receipts in the revolving account. Bush noted that the receipts, not including the Thanksgiving Day share, amount to $9,000.

In another issue, Hanratty offered a motion to give the football team their home jerseys with repairs made for those needing them. Bush said the replacement cost would be about $30 and some would have to replaced anyway because of their condition. She also said the football team has already bought jackets on their own. She said she would be collecting them to have the league championship and super bowl championship emblems put on.

The Committee voted unanimously to contribute $25 towards the cost of jackets for the 53-member football team, as they have in the past.

Bush approached the Committee with a recommendation that the basketball games be videotaped and delayed up to 24 hours so as not to affect gate receipts.

Pojani said that was a good idea as gates receipts are going down as people watch the games on television.

Tuttle said many elderly look forward to watching the games and recommended against a 24 hour delay.

Hanratty agreed and suggested that perhaps delaying the game for only two or three hours would not hurt gate receipts.

Pojani suggested that Bush's recommendation be tried for a month.

The Committee also approved a suggestion that scorekeepers be given the choice of being paid $100 per season or receiving a team letter.

In other action, at Bush's request, the committee endorsed a policy of having separate passes for students age 12 and older and adults.

SPED Revolving Account

Special Education (SpEd) Director Joanne Stowe gave a brief update on the non-resident student revolving account that is used for two Millbury programs in SPED for out-of-town students. The funds as of November 30, 1993 amounted to $20,961.95. These monies are used for aides' salaries, a portion of a SpEd teacher's salary and for supplies and special equipment.

Palermo commended Stowe and the staff involved in these programs which, he noted, bring students from other towns to Millbury to participate in such excellent programs.

Hanratty asked Stowe how much she has brought into the town with extra funds such as those just reported on.

Stowe said she couldn't give an exact figure, but acknowledged that it was well over $1M.

Turn to SCHOOL on Page 6

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SCHOOL from Page 5

Pojani and Tuttle commended Stowe on her accomplishments and said she has been a big asset to the school system and does a wonderful job.

Permanent Substitute

Mills asked the Committee to approve a request for an additional permanent substitute for the high school. He said there has been a burgeoning of students in several classes in math and history after the results of the first ten weeks of school; many students transferred when they found they couldn't cope with some levels of classes. The added cost would be about $8500 for this year. Mills said he would look for a candidate that would be certified in both math and social studies.

The Committee added $10,000 to the substitute teachers account to bring it up to $109,881.

Education Reform

The committee added approximately $120,000 to this year's budget from state funds to bring the system into compliance with the Education Reform Act. Areas added to, in addition to the $10,000 added to the substitute teachers account, included instructional supplies, conferences, text replacements, library supplies, computer upgrades, audio/visual equipment and transportation.

Tuttle voted in opposition to several of the requests. She asked her colleagues to bear with her as she did not subscribe to the philosophy that the money has to be spent just for the sake of doing so.

Non-resident attendance policy

The Committee approved a first reading of a non-resident attendance policy. Palermo said he has been in contact with Attorney Finnegan on several questions related to the proposed policy and that Finnegan said school choice could affect the policy.

Hanratty suggested that the committee vote on the first reading of the policy and said any changes that have to be made as a result of recommendations from Finnegan can be added in the second and final reading.

Palermo reminded the Committee that if they don't take a vote by next June on school choice, it will automatically be enacted into the school system.

Addenda

Palermo brought up two items under addenda that Chairman Hanratty asked be put on the next meeting's agenda so the Committee could think about the proposals.

One proposal came from John Marlborough who chairs the Citizens Scholarship Committee. According to Palermo, Marlborough wants a ten year commitment from the School Committee to support a fund raising program which would include a link with Matson Greenhouse and Nursery to provide seed, flowers and nursery items for sale in conjunction with the Scholarship Committee which is a private fund raising group.

The other issue is a request from Lola Bus Co. that it be allowed to continue a bus run beyond January at a cost of $9000, which Business Manager Sue Pierce said was a good price.

Fire Department Office Hours

MILLBURY - The Millbury Fire Department now has office hours Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The office is located at Fire headquarters on Elm Street. All fire department permits may be applied for during these hours. (This includes smoke detector permits, oil burner permits, propane tank permits, etc.) For any fire department related questions or business, you can call the office at 865-5328 during these hours. The Board of Fire Engineers hopes this will make it more convenient for all persons having fire department business to conduct.

IN CASE OF FIRE EMERGENCY, CALL 9-1-1.

Reactivation of A.A. Sherman, Camp #18, Uxbridge

UXBRIDGE - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War held a primary meeting for reactivation of a long-slumbering sons of Union Veterans of the War Between the States, 1861-1865.

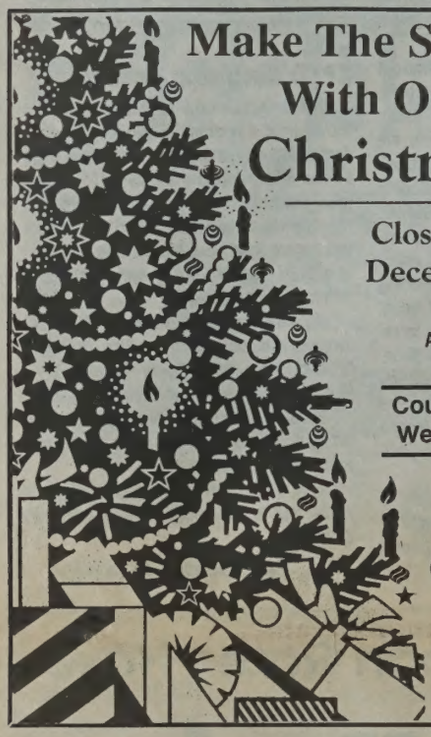
Organizers said the purpose of this movement was, "and still is, to keep alive the memory of the native sons and daughters of both sides, North & South, who spent and lost their lives, limbs, and property for a cause each believed to be just; the fields they nourished with their young are now being plowed under, to be supplanted by shopping malls, and real estate for affluent home buyers. New members are being sought now and need not have direct lineage to departed comrades. Other applicants may be accepted, if they show a sincere interest in honoring these Veterans who gave us our present heritage. Join us, 'Lest We Forget.'"

Those with an interest can contact Benjamin Emerick, Adj. P.O. Box 332, Uxbridge, MA 01569.

The next meeting will be held Monday, January 17, at 7 p.m. at the North Uxbridge Fire Station.

Attending Rensselaer

TROY, NY - Edmond White, of 88 McCracken Road, Millbury, is enrolled in the freshmen class at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is majoring in engineering.



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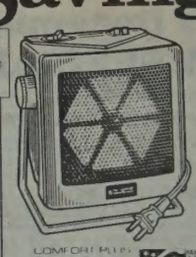

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SELECTMEN from Page 1

Laws. Once board members make a selection in open meeting, they could then return to executive session for negotiations with that candidate.

Cristo then asked about a community background check on the two finalists. "I thought before we appoint a candidate we may want to send someone out to their communities to talk to other town officials and community leaders and check on some references. When I mentioned it to the Search Committee Chairman (David Matson), he said he would be willing to do that with a member of this Board or any other person we designate prior to next Tuesday night."

Selectmen Roland Lachance, Donald Gauthier and Bernard Plante said they had already conducted background checks.

The Board voted 4-1, Gauthier opposed, to have Dave Matson and Selectman Gerry Bleau visit Sturbridge and Uxbridge for background checks.

Gauthier said he voted in opposition because he had already done his homework and was ready to vote on a candidate tonight.

Bleau asked about including a visit to Westborough for a background check on Chris Clark, Assistant Town Coordinator of Westborough, who was interviewed last week but was not selected to return for a second round of interviews.

Gauthier said that if the Board considers that option then they should consider doing the same for the candidate from Pennsylvania, Thomas Hall. "He, (Bleau) is thinking about the guy from Westborough, what does the Board think about the guy from Pennsylvania?" asked Gauthier. "If we don't come to an agreement with these two candidates, then we have two others."

Lachance said he had already done his homework on the two finalists. "I feel comfortable," he said. To be fair, if other members of the Board haven't done their homework, then let the chairman of the Search Committee go out and do it."

"I don't think it's a matter of not doing homework," said Cristo. "I have some information and some questions that I think I have the answers to, but also I think I would want to look at some references. I don't have friends in those two communities."

"I don't have friends in those communities either," responded Lachance, "but if you want to find out things, you contact people. To be fair to all the candidates, I think it would be a good idea to do a reference check; I don't think it will change my mind."

Round two began with a question to David DeManche, presently administrative assistant in the Town of Uxbridge. He was asked about a situation Millbury is facing because it is not in compliance with a state statute requiring a full time veterans agent for towns with populations of 12,000 or more.

"How would you balance the budget/small case load issue with the mandate of the State statute?" Cristo asked. "We have a person doing it on a part time basis."

"My question would be, is the job being handled properly on a part time basis?" replied DeManche. "If that be the case, then I don't see spending the money, even though adverse to the general laws, to have a full time person when a half time person is doing the job."

DeManche also noted that if the laws of the Commonwealth are not serving the best interests of the town, then the Selectmen should work with their representatives to get the laws changed.

Patricia Whalen, presently town administrator in Sturbridge, said she read recently where there was an amendment proposed to change that law. She also said the Board could look at seeking a waiver from the State.

In response to a question on the Town's budget, DeManche indicated that he hadn't done an in-depth analysis. He did say he would take an approach to insuring that services could be maintained without a Prop. 2 1/2 override by first looking at staffing and then at how expenses line up with the responsibility of each department. "Possibly do things differently, like flex time or consolidate services."

Whalen said she would start with the budget process, look at the needs of each department. use a budget format, have each department develop their mission statement and goals from which a budget would be developed. "This can be used for a planning tool," she said.

DeManche said he would look at infrastructure needs in a way to avoid possible debt exclusion overrides by developing a capital plan over a five year period, and state in the plan that the town would maintain a certain level of debt by using excess capacity or a variance of that to complete necessary projects.

Whalen said capital projects could be completed with grant money from the State and by using revolving accounts and, in areas such as sewers, by using fees developed over time to help pay for future projects.

Responding to a question on how to coordinate the various human services programs in town for the youth, elderly and veterans, he said it is difficult to find parallels among those programs.

Whalen said she would work off a census of the community in those areas to determine what needs can be addressed and how best to address them.

DeManche also said he would develop a team approach with departments to discuss ideas on how to approach common problems and solutions.

Whalen also suggested a team approach, the sharing of resources and possible redeployment of personnel in periods of off peak work loads. She also advocated sharing equipment between departments and other towns.

To help revitalize the downtown business district, DeManche suggested that the town look for Small Cities Grant monies to help refurbish the outside of buildings and look into forming a business association to focus on the community and market. "Look at sale days and harvest feast days for developing a market plan to get people downtown," he said.

Whalen suggested a similar approach, indicating she had worked with the Chamber of Commerce as a member and an associate director in Sturbridge to help develop a plan. She said she would assist businesses in developing a plan to promote downtown business. She also said she would work with them through town government in areas like helping new businesses relocate and get them through the permitting process.

DeManche suggested to the Board that they work through their legislators to get rid of State mandates. "Tell them enough is enough," he said. Referring to the Education Reform Act, DeManche noted that that is a seven-year mandated program which will mean taking funds from other budgets. "The legislators should be encouraged to recognize that the time will come when it will all fall apart."

Whalen suggested the same approach of working through legislators. She noted that there presently is no revenue stream for the Education Reform mandates. She advised town officials to put pressure on their representatives.

DeManche said he would continue to do consulting work on a part time basis which, he said, would not interfere with this position.

Whalen said she would not do outside work as she thinks the position is a full time job in itself.

When asked why they wanted to leave their present positions, both candidates said

Turn to SELECTMEN on Page 9

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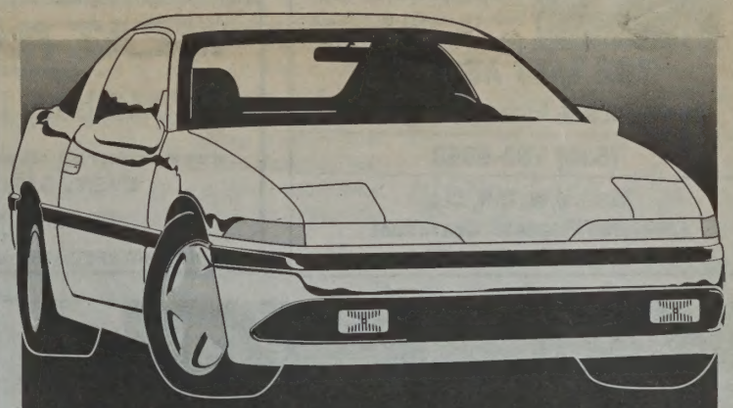

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From My Window on Farnsworth Court

By "Pastor Rae" Cameron

Christmas trees this year are very full and beautiful because they are now being harvested from open fields where they are specially grown and kept trimmed. They used to come out of the woods from among many other trees. It is more profitable to grow Christmas trees than to raise crops - says a lot about our values!

Here are a few suggestions on how to put up your Christmas tree in a devotional way rather than just another chore at Christmas time.

First, just put up the tree and allow it to stand, and enjoy its natural beauty and smell its lovely fragrance. Remember that "poems are writ' by fools like me, but only God can make a tree."

Then put on the lights and remember that this is the darkest time of the year, and every light is needed. Remember also that God sent His Son into a dark world to allow His light to shine in our dark hearts.

After this, put on the ornaments which reflect the light. Jesus has called us to let our lights shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. Many ornaments have special meaning in the lives of our families. Hold these in dearest memory and pray for those whom you remember through them.

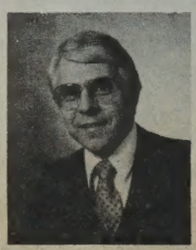
Don't forget to put on the star or the angel to remind you that the Christmas story is filled with wonders and miracles. Read again that blessed story and allow the Christ born in Bethlehem's manger to be born into your heart and life. Amen.

A Christmas Pageant

CHRONICLE photo by Alexander A. Bellsie

MILLBURY - Children from the First Congregational Church on West Main Street are shown rehearsing for their Christmas Pageant which was held December 11.

Leaving Your Job? Retiring?



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come out, come out

Wherever you are.

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First Night buttons on sale now!

FIRST NIGHT 1994 WORCESTER

The most fun you can have in the dark.

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SELECTMEN from Page 7

they wanted new challenges to continue on with their career goals.

[No vote was taken on a candidate tonight, but at their December 14 meeting, the Selectmen voted unanimously to go with DeManche.]

Building Inspector's office

The Board met with Ann Kniskern, secretary in the Building Inspector's Office, who spoke to the need for a part time clerk to answer calls when she is out due to illness or on vacation. She said people are calling her house at all times of the day when she has time off and on weekends. She also said one individual showed up on her doorstep at 7:00 A.M. wanting her to get a permit.

Kniskern noted that the office services all the town's inspectors and said the increase in calls and contacts at her home and, at times, even in the grocery market, has developed into what she considers a need for a part time person.

Board members were sympathetic and noted that people bothering her at home was inappropriate.

Debbie Plante, a secretary in the Selectmen's office, said she and Ferol Hagstrom, another secretary, have occasionally issued permits to help out and collected fees when the office was not open during daytime hours.

A question arose over how the position could be funded.

Cristo said funding could be looked at through next year's budget.

Veterans Information

The Board met with Veterans Agent Phil Buso and veterans Sylvio Bourdeau and Joe Bianculli who were present to seek the Board's approval to ask veterans in town to send in a copy of their DD 214 Form so the Veterans Office in Town would have a copy for the use of veterans, widows and dependents when the need arises. The form is part of veterans' separation documents from the service.

Buso said some veterans' survivors have been unable to receive burial benefits because they can't locate the form.

Bianculli and Bourdeau said the information would help establish a registry of veterans in town which could assist in providing services to widows and dependents in a much more efficient manner. The information would be requested along with the census. The request will consist of one sheet with a request for information on the front and a sample copy of a DD214 form on the back so individuals will know what the form looks like.

Bourdeau said the veterans would come up with the $30 for the paper and he said he would volunteer to help run off the form.

Cristo said the proposal was a great idea, and the Board approved the veterans' request.

In a related matter, the Board was advised by the General Counsel for the State Department of Veterans Affairs that the department has given the Town of Millbury two weeks to provide information on bringing the Town into compliance with Chapter 471 of the Acts of 1972 that requires towns of a population of 12,000 plus to provide for a full time veterans agent who must also be a veteran. The letter from General Counsel reads, in part, "Unless I am informed within two weeks how the Town of Millbury intends to hire a full time veteran's agent or becomes a member of a regional district, and when it expects to satisfy this legislative mandate, I will ask the Office of the Attorney General to seek a court order requiring the same."

A directive from The Department of Veteran's Affairs also accompanied the letter and instructed the Board on the directives they must comply with, including options for manning the office when it is not open during normal business hours with a backup person capable of performing veteran's related business.

Cristo said the Board has attempted to become involved in a regional set-up with Sutton but has received no response from them.

Lachance, taking note that Patricia Whalen in her interview stated that an amendment was before the legislature to change the existing statutory requirements, suggested that the Board wait until the amendment is passed before taking any action.

Ramshorn

Lachance asked that the Board request a copy of the water testing results at Ramshorn Pond that were done by the Pond's Association.

A letter was received from a resident on Dolan Road relative to information she had acquired that no record has been established to indicate that the residents in the area received a reduction in fire insurance because of a dry hydrant at Ramshorn Pond.

Chase said some residents in that area have indicated they get a reduction on premiums even though there may be no official recognition of that.

Cash Flow

The Board received a memo from the Treasurer's Office notifying them that because of a cash flow problem, bills coming in during the next two week period will not be paid until the cash flow problem is abated. According to a spokesperson in the Treasurer's Office, the tax bills went out and it is expected that the cash flow problem will ease as residents begin paying their taxes. Residents have 30 days from the postmarked date to pay the tax bill before penalties kick in.

Millbury Tax Bills

MILLBURY - The first half of Fiscal 1994 Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills were mailed on December 8, 1993. They are due in the Collector's Office on January 6, 1994.

Payments received after January 6, 1994, in the office or by mail, will be subject to interest at 14% per annum from the mailing date.

Because of the upcoming holidays, the Municipal Building will close at noon on Thursday, December 23, 1993 and will be closed Friday, December 24 and Friday, December 31, 1993.

Star Performers

MILLBURY - The R.E. Shaw Elementary School has announced the following Star Performers for December, 1993: Ashley Berardi; Grade 3: Justin Colarusso, Lindsay Shields, Sarah Maroti, Ashley Fox, Monica Castillo, Sean Dore; Grade 4: Alana Mercure, Philip Opatka, Michael Hamilton, Eric Chouinard, Jessica Hoye; Grade 5: Sean McKeon, Lea Savasta, Adam Woelfel, Robert King; Grade 6: Sheri Dupre, Jessica Strom, Jennifer Bien and Brian Pinga.

The students are selected with consideration of their attention to learning and their spirit of cooperation.

School Lunch Menus

WEEK OF DECEMBER 20-24

MILLBURY HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY: Link Sausage, Funnel Cake, FF, Applesauce

TUESDAY: Cheeseburger, FF, Mixed Vegetables, Pudding

WEDNESDAY: Juice, Submarine Sandwich (With Lettuce & Tomato) FF, Fruit

THURSDAY: Spaghetti/Meatballs, Green Beans, Garlic Bread, Push Up Popsicle

FRIDAY: no school, Christmas vacation

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

MONDAY: Chicken Nuggets, FF, Pears

TUESDAY: Hot Dog/Roll, Animal Tots, Corn, Pudding

WEDNESDAY: Baconburger/Roll, Lettuce & Tomato, or Pizza, Potato Puffs, Fruit

THURSDAY: Special Cheese Sandwich, FF, Carrots/Celery Stix, Fruit Snacks

FRIDAY: no school, Christmas vacation

MCU HOLIDAY CLOSING

The Millbury Credit Union will close for **Christmas** at 2 p.m. December 24, and reopen at 10 a.m. on December 27.

For **New Year's**, MCU will close at 4 p.m. December 31, and reopen at 10 a.m. on January 3.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

MON. THROUGH THURS.–10 AM-5 PM
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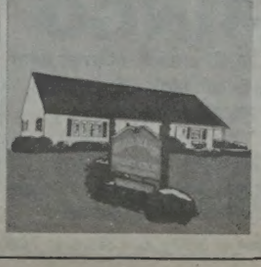

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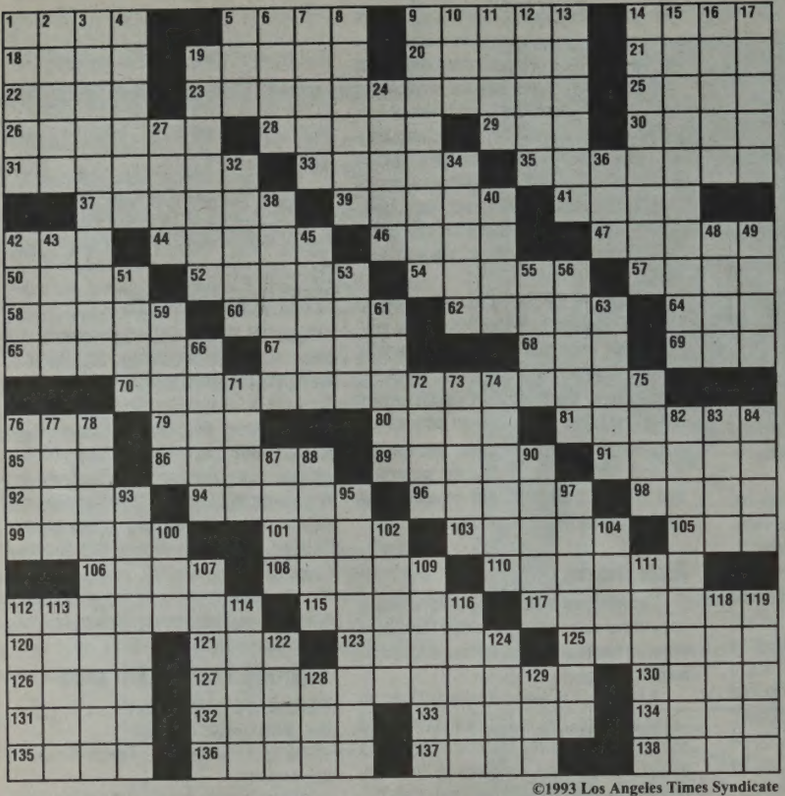
Crossword Puzzle



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"OUT ON A LIMB"
By Norma Steinberg

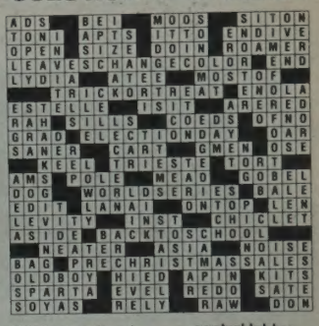
ACROSS

1 Bistro
5 Read a bar code
9 Managed, somehow
14 How sweet —!
18 Actress Lena —
19 Fry lightly
20 Ike's opponent
21 Comic Sahl
22 N. Dak. neighbor
23 Polishing aid?
25 Skin: Fr.
26 Dynamo
28 Entrap
29 To date
30 Bus. letter abbr.
31 Cassandra, for one
33 Clear a tape
35 Old-fashioned medical aids
37 Directional rockets
39 Alaskan island
41 Take out
42 Sprite
44 Betsy Ross, for example
46 Armstrong or Sedaka
47 Rhythm
50 Grande and Bravo
52 Coup —
54 Plumber's aid
57 Painter of limp watches
58 A Helmsley
60 Extinct birds
62 Virginia, to friends
64 Unc., for one
65 Stick it out
67 Pacific island nation
68 Guido's high note
69 Bandleader Kayser
70 Good first impression
76 — - to books
79 From — Z
80 Cork's locale
81 Like two peas —
85 Large biped
86 Auto style
89 Actress Bernhardt
91 Foul up
92 "Better —"
94 Soft drinks
96 Kind of lily
98 Mme. Gluck
99 Arabic name for God
101 Rock band equip.
103 Nostrils
105 Gibson or Brooks
106 Hurried
108 Bumps into
110 Minimum
112 Western mountains
115 Chastise
117 Mouth piece
120 Revival meeting exclamation
121 — Na Na
123 Motionless
125 Handsome young man
126 Mrs. Roy Rogers
127 Secondhand clothes
130 Probabilities
131 Long times
132 Murphy or Cantor
133 Harsh light
134 English colonial General
135 Danson and Knight
136 Rule
137 Famous lioness
138 "The — of Texas"

DOWN

1 Arrives
2 "Home —"
3 Canapes
4 Complete
5 Pitcher Maglie
6 Chicago team
7 United
8 Jerry Lewis' home town
9 Fondles
10 Poetic form
11 "— ball!"
12 Stand for 57 Across
13 Tried to lose weight
14 Had an effect on
15 Behave
16 Furious
17 Flabbergasts
19 Blows up
24 With a — of salt
27 Takes home after taxes
32 Planted
34 Making do, with "out"
36 Nosh
38 Leave on a journey
40 Jai —
42 Perry's creator
43 Mortgage
45 Marconi's brainstorm
48 — bargain
49 Smarmy
51 Ignore deliberately
53 Japanese General of WW II
55 Had memorized
56 Chinese leader Chou —
59 — of expertise
61 Locations
63 Tall tales
66 Senator Kefauver
71 Uproar
72 Proclamation
73 Senator Hatch
74 Bush predecessor
75 Actor Andrews
76 Laugh
77 Moonstone
78 Rich
82 Pre-Easter holiday
83 "For the life —..."
84 Double
87 — Clayton Powell
88 Nominates
90 Biblical king
93 Equity
95 Sample
97 Let go
100 — Majesty
102 Oliver or Sharon
104 Fax
107 Dancer's harness-mate
109 Kind of hammer
111 Curly or Moe
112 Egyptian leader
113 Picture
114 TV's "Evening —"
116 Whimsical
118 Crest
119 Curvy letters
122 "The King —"
124 "— the night before..."
128 Comprehend, colloquially
129 Anti-gun control lobby: Abbr.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S



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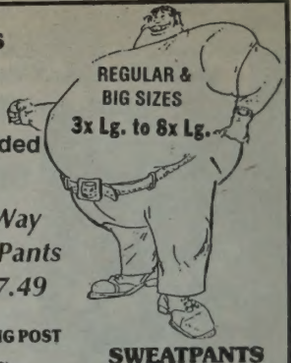

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PART TIME HOUSEKEEPER for child care center, afternoons, 4-5:30 p.m. No experience necessary, but should be willing to learn. Call 865-1066. [uc]

Legals...Legals...Legals

Town of Millbury
Request for Proposals
for Property Acquisition

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 30B of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town of Millbury is soliciting proposals relative to the sale of town owned land located on Sutton Road identified on Assessor's Map 79, Lot 1 consisting of approximately 10,051 s.f., zoned Suburban II. The property is to be used for the construction of a water booster pump station. The proposal must detail the proposer's plan to design and construct the water booster pump system with pump house. The proposer must be qualified and authorized in the Town of Millbury to own and operate waterworks servicing the residents of Millbury. Purchase and Sales Agreement and deed will be held in escrow until the purchaser provides approved plans and specifications for the water booster pump station. The value as appraised in 1993 is $12,000.00.

The proposal deadline is December 23, 1993 at 11:00 a.m. Submittals will be received at the following:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Town of Millbury
127 Elm Street
Millbury, MA 01527
Attn: Earl Chase

December 9 and 16, 1993

Women's Bowling League

MILLBURY - Pat Gaspar had the High Triple for the week of November 30th with strings of 103/118/96 for a 317 game. Becky Rushton had high triple with a 122 game. Bowling 100 and over were Pat Gaspar, 103/118; Kathy Marble, 102/100; Becky Rushton, 122; Vivian Joubert, 119; Mary Jo Boire, 118; Ann Coons, 108; Gail Higginbottom, 103; Bette Pichierri, 103; Irma Healy, 102; Clair Doherty, 101.

Kathy Marble had High Triple for the week of December 7 with strings of 120/100/123 for a 343 game. Pat Gaspar had High Single with a 126. Bowling 100 and over were Kathy Marble, 120/100/123; Pat Gaspar 126/100; Gail Higginbottom, 102/115; Ann Coons, 100/114; Bernie Lemoine, 105; Bette Pichierri, 102; Alice Lucier, 102; Bobbee Bernard, 100.

TEAM STANDINGS

PLACE	TEAM	WON	LOST
1	#5 Yellow Roses	57	47
2	#2 Black Orchids	57	47
3	#6 Purple Passions	55	49
4	#1 Pink Panthers	52	52
5	#3 Blue Belles	47	57
6	#4 Violets	46	58

HIGH SINGLE
Charlotte Gabree 142
Kathy Marble 136
Pat Gaspar 133

HIGH TRIPLE
Kathy Marble 347
Charlotte Gabree 330
Pat Gaspar 329

HIGH AVERAGE: Kathy Marble, 102; Pat Gaspar, 101.4; Charlotte Gabree 96.3.

TOP TEN BOWLERS: Kathy Marble, 102; Pat Gaspar 101.4; Charlotte Gabree 96.3; Joan DeSantis 95.6; Gail Higginbottom 95.5; Becky Rushton 95.5; Ann Coons, 93.1; Vivian Joubert 92.3; Ellen Bouvier 90.8, Mary Jo Boire 89.4.

Calendar

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

MILLBURY - The Millbury Parks Department will sponsor "Santa on the Common" from 10-2. The rain date will be Sunday, December 19, 12-2.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

MILLBURY - Special town election on debt exclusion. Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Reflections from the Clergy

This week's "Reflections" was submitted by the Rev. Robert E. Kelley, Associate Pastor of St. Brigid's Church, Millbury.

Advent Thoughts

Watch a young child who is waiting excitedly for a special day to arrive. That day may be his or her birthday, it could be Halloween or Thanksgiving, or it could be Christmas. With each new dawn, they act as if this could be the very day itself. Their eyes could tell a story of great expectations. Anyone who is in contact with such a little person cannot help but get caught up in the excitement. That feeling of excitement in a little child is the feeling that the season of Advent should bring out in all of us.

Advent is an essential component of our Christian spirituality. It is a living sense of vigilance, a state of being alert for the coming of Christ who is among us, yet who comes anew each day and who will come in a definitive end time. The scriptures are full of accounts of humanity's longing, satisfied in the birth of Jesus who went beyond all human hope in taking upon himself everything that is truly human.

Advent has a two-fold character: as a season to prepare us for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; and as a season when that remembrance directs our mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time.

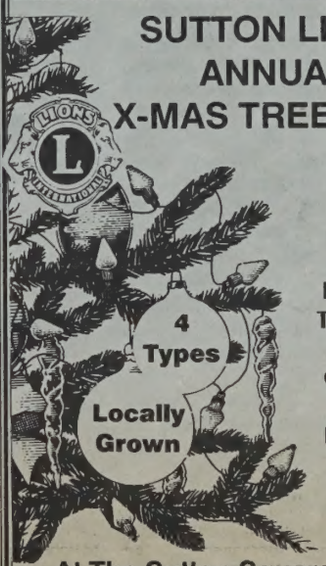
The Advent season reconnects us to the waiting of our ancestors, fulfilled in Christ's humble birth. The Advent season proclaims day after day the vision of the prophet Isaiah who was inspired to preach the message of a new world which is being built on the foundation of the child born to us at Bethlehem. Advent rekindles in us that sense of watching and waiting wherein we see and identify Christ's constant breaking into our daily existence.

The world around us will rush the Christmas season and clothe itself in tinsel while Christians find themselves wrapped in a deep spirit of hope restored. Christ has come among us. Christ is among us. Christ will come again in a glory to be recognized only by those who keep watch despite the growing darkness and cold.

DEADLINE

The DEADLINE for all submissions to the Millbury-Sutton Chronicle is Saturday of the week prior to publication. The office is closed to the public on Saturdays but announcements may be left in the mailbox at the side entrance

SUTTON LIONS ANNUAL X-MAS TREE SALE



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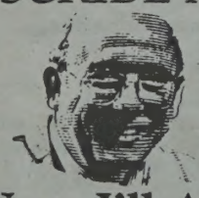

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SUTTON from Page 1

road because of the failures of the former contractor has cost Sutton more than the $10,000 bond it held.

Sale of Whitinsville Water Co.

Olson told the board that he will be part of a group interviewing consultants who will make recommendations on the feasibility of Northbridge buying the Whitinsville Water Co. If the water district is bought by the town, Sutton will lose $37,000 in tax revenues because municipalities are exempt from paying taxes.

Tax Assessment

Phyllis and Raymond Flynn of Highland View Drive told the board that they disagreed with their tax assessment and asked the board to explain how the bill was formulated.

Selectman Jim Gvazdauskas explained that he has had several calls expressing the same concern and dissatisfaction over the assessments. Gvazdauskas has been involved in a group of water front property owners who appealed past tax bills. He said he would like to get an explanation of the assessing process, recalling that the assessors were supposed to meet with the selectmen for that purpose.

Connor advised the Flynns to get an explanation from the assessors first.

Johnson agreed that the selectmen did ask to meet with the assessors in order to understand their process. He suggested having a meeting with them for that purpose.

Connor expressed concern that an open meeting with the assessors could become a forum for attacking them. She said she would not be a party to that.

The selectmen agreed that the meeting should be orderly and chose December 28 as the night they would invite the assessors to come before them.

Miscellaneous

- Edward Michalak was appointed to the Sewer Fees Feasibility Committee.

- Olson told the board that they should begin thinking about scheduling a special town meeting to address the funds that may be returned to the town from an Educational Reform Waiver.

- The board considered meeting with the Millbury Board of Selectmen to discuss matters of mutual concern. Among the issues mentioned as possible areas to be considered are: the Millbury Sewer System, the use of Camp Marion, the Millbury Youth Commission, a shared Veteran's Agent. The selectmen agreed that it would be advisable to have a list of topics presented beforehand so as to have meaningful dialogue.

Winter Wonderland

RUTLAND - The Devereux Treatment Center will host a Winter Wonderland on Friday, December 17 from 6:30-9:00 P.M., Saturday, December 18, 1-4 P.M. and 6:30-9:00 P.M. and Sunday, December 19, 1-4 p.m. Pose with Santa for a picture, join the caroling, saunter through the winter castle with its many tabloids, shop for those extraordinary handmade gifts, unique decorations, and delicious home baked goodies, or pet some small animals wearing furry winter coats.

Devereux is a non-profit treatment center for children ages six to 22. Established in 1965, the center serves 110 special needs children and is supported by 230 professional staff members. Not all of these children have had pleasant holiday experiences, but they are working to create happy memories for you.

IRS has holiday gift

BOSTON - The Internal Revenue Service has $885,885.18 in unclaimed refund checks for some 1,690 Bay State residents. The undelivered refund checks range in size from $1.00 up to $27,293.

Taxpayers who did not receive a federal refund within the last three years should call the IRS toll free at 1-800-TAX-1040.

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